PRAGMATIC: Reflections on Realism *is a work of philosophical argument addressed to the general reader. It begins from a single physical fact — the universe tends toward equilibrium, and life is a brief, costly deviation from that baseline — and follows the implications without retreat.*

Drawing on thermodynamic science, the pragmatist tradition of William James and John Dewey, and the work of chemist Ilya Prigogine on dissipative structures, the author develops a method for living, thinking, and acting within what is actually the case. The method is verified not by argument alone but by the biographical and physiological record of the individual who holds it.

The work examines nine historical figures — among them Socrates, Spinoza, Beethoven, Goya, and Carl Sagan — whose sovereign gestures exceeded what circumstance should have permitted. It considers the traces civilization has left, including the Golden Record aboard Voyager 1, still traveling through interstellar space. And it addresses the present moment directly, without prescription or consolation.

The signal is sent.

Whether it is received is

not the measure of its truth.